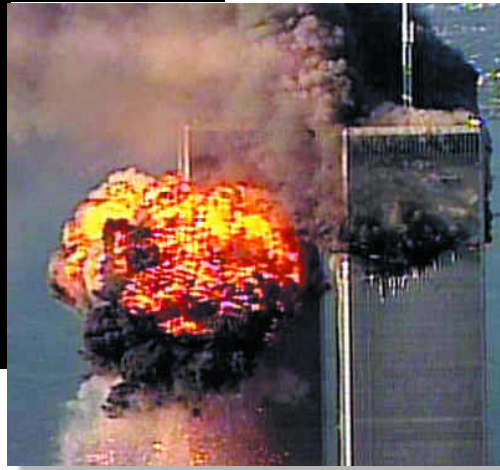Being prepared for a terrorist incident can mean the difference between life and death.

A terrorist attack using chemical, biological, nuclear, or explosive weapons of mass destruction could result in hundreds or thousands of casualties. The U.S. Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, has been appointed to assist local governments of over sixty specific areas, including the Hampton Roads Region, in planning and developing a Metropolitan Medical Response System.

Q. What is a Metropolitan Medical Response System?

A. A Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) is a process to respond to the health and medical consequences of a terrorist incident involving the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Q. What does the Hampton Roads MMRS Plan include?

A. The MMRS Plan addresses emergency medical needs in the aftermath of a terrorist attack during the first 24 hours or for as many as 1,000 victims, including procurement and provision of appropriate pharmaceuticals, equipment, and supplies. The Plan includes many procedures, such as command and control; notification and alert; crime scene security; management of public affairs; centralized communication control; management of medical personnel, supplies and equipment; patient tracking; laboratory support; and crowd control. Strategies have been developed for the movement of patients to other areas of the region or nation in the event that local health care is insufficient.

Q. Who developed the MMRS for Hampton Roads?

A. Over the last two years, the cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg and the counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Southampton, Surry and York joined together and developed this regional plan. The MMRS Steering Committee participants included personnel from local law enforcement, fire departments, Haz-Mat, EMS, hospitals, pharmacies, public health departments, emergency management, communications departments, and mental health groups.

Q. Are state and federal agencies involved?

A. Yes, many state and federal agencies have participated in developing the Plan and have a role in the MMRS, including the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, the Virginia National Guard, FBI, FEMA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and military bases and hospitals.

Q. Who is paying for the MMRS?

A. The U.S. Public Health Service has contracted with Hampton Roads for $1.2 million to develop the plan and buy pharmaceuticals and equipment to assist in its implementation.

Q. Who will maintain the MMRS Plan and keep it up-to-date?

A. The Tidewater Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc., (TEMS) in conjunction with the Peninsula Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc., (PEMS) will oversee the maintenance of the Plan. The MMRS Program Manager will be responsible for sustaining the communications resources; replacing supplies, disposable equipment, and expiring medications; and providing basic MMRS training resources. The Plan is a dynamic document and will be continuously assessed and updated.

Hampton Roads MMRS Mission

To develop and sustain a comprehensive medical operational response capability for the Hampton Roads communities to the consequences of Weapons of Mass Destruction terrorist acts.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM
MMRS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAMPTON ROADS, VIRGINIA

TEMS, Inc.

HAMPTON ROADS
PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION